

Dickenson County School Board – Summary Minutes

February 28, 2018

I. ROLL CALL AND MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Susan Mullins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.
- b. **Members in Attendance:** Susan Mullins, Chairman; Rick Mullins, Vice-Chairman; Rocky Barton; Dr. Lurton Lyle; Shanghai Nickles; Haydee Robinson, Superintendent; Reba McCowan, Clerk

c. Approval of Agenda

Following a motion by Rocky Barton and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the agenda was approved with a revision of adding item J. Mike Clisso, P.E., C.L.S. CFM Engineering Services

Vote Results

Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathy Musick, VPE – Provided the Board an update from Virginia Professional Educator’s work in Richmond. She said that VPE is actively working on bills that support our area. Rural Act Risk Add-on funding could increase and that is just some of what VPE works on. I appreciate all that you do and the hard decisions you have to make. Thank you.
2. Phyllis Mullins, DEA – Updated the Board DEA/VEA working on bills and trying to get them through the legislature and the VEA President is actually on the Governor’s transition team. DEA is getting ready for Convention and she thanked Mrs. Robinson for the allowing Professional Leave for the delegates to attend. She invited everyone to attend the district “Put Kids First” walk that would be held in April in Lebanon on Main Street.
3. Glenda O’Quinn – Stated that she was a retired employee, who taught every grade level except 1st, 2nd and 3rd and was also an Assistant Principal. She has experience and asked that she be respected and when she calls to complain it’s because she may have an idea or a different way of doing something. In help raising her grandson and being part of his life when he sought her advice she would tell him you will do the right thing. You know what the right thing is and I know you’ll do it. She told the Board they know what the right thing is and urged them to do the right thing.
4. Autumn Lamkin – Addressed the Board urging them to support academic groups equally to sports and athletics. She said that her experience here is very different from what they are used to.
5. Jeremy Indseth – Addressed the Board requesting the Board consider a course offering of EMT at Ridgeview
6. Linda Willis – Urged the Board to think of the children and keep three elementary schools; Ervinton, Clintwood and Haysi.
7. Carroll Edwards – Urged the Board to make a decision on where to build the elementary school and move forward. He told them they had the power to move forward or backward.
8. Kathy Harrison - Stated she lived in the Ervinton District; it was the largest area but least populated. She said this was starting to feel a little personal against Haysi and it has been three years; build the school on Backbone!
9. Don Hill – Provided a map, completed by Weldon Cooper Center, to the Board showing population and an area map merged. He stated that Clinchco was clearly the center for the most student population of the County. He urged the Board to use data to determine the location of the new elementary school.

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Following a motion by Rick Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the consent agenda items were approved.

Vote Results

Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

a. Approval of Minutes

- ❖ December 6, 2017 – Joint Meeting w/Board of Supervisors and IDA
- ❖ January 24, 2018 – Reorganization Meeting
- ❖ January 31, 2018 – Joint Meeting w/Board of Supervisors and IDA
- ❖ January 31, 2018 – Regular Scheduled Meeting for January

b. Approval of Monthly Bills – School Operating Fund

Monthly Bills: Check # 878283 - Check #787373.....\$234,271.97
Paid February 1 - February 28, 2018
Monthly Payroll: Check # 388436 – Check # 388460.....\$1,641,784.27
Paid on February 28, 2018

c. School Activity Fund

- ❖ Informational Item

d. Field Trips

- ❖ Ridgeview High School
 - Feb. 10th – Powell River Project – Pound, VA – 8th – 12th Grade
 - Feb. 13th – Southwest VA Comm. College – 11th – 12th Grade
 - Feb. 15th -17th – Morehead State – Morehead, KY – 10th Grade
 - Feb. 23rd-25th – Virginia State Robotics – Richmond, VA – 9th – 12th
 - March 9th – Waverly Hill Sanatorium – Nursing Students
 - March 14th – Tazewell, VA – 10th – 12th Grade
 - March 16th-18th – Green Bank Observatory – Green Bank, WVA – 12th
 - March 23rd-24th – The Meadows – Doswell, VA – 10th – 12th Grade
 - April 6th – Wytheville Community College – 8th – 12th Grade
- ❖ Ridgeview Middle School
 - April 13th – Barter Theatre – Abingdon, VA – 6th Grade

IV. INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD

- 2018 VSBA March Hot Topic Conference – March 14, 2018

V. SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON

e. Good News from Our Schools

- VSBA School Board Appreciation Month
 - Superintendent Robinson presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Board Members, Clerk and Deputy Clerk in honor of School Board Appreciation Month and Clerk Appreciation Week.
 - Reba McCowan, Clerk – 9 ½ Years of Service
 - Larry Barton, Deputy Clerk – 1 Year of Service

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- Susan Mullins, Chairman – 10 Years of Service
- Rocky Barton, Member – 10 Years of Service
- Shanghai Nickles, Member – 6 Years of Service
- Rick Mullins, Vice-Chairman – 2 Years of Service
- Dr. Lurton Lyle, Member – 21 ½ Years of Service *Dr. Lurton Lyle was also recognized for his retirement from Dickenson Medical Associates and 54 Years of Service as a Physician to the community.*
- December 2017 Enrollment and Attendance
The student enrollment on January 31, 2018 was 1,999 students. Our January division wide enrollment percentage was 92.64%. Congratulations to CES! CES had the highest student attendance percentage with 94.59% for the month of January: 126 students are currently enrolled in Pre-K classes in our elementary schools.

f. Update on State Budget from General Assembly: FY 2019

Larry Barton presented the following information: Both the House and Senate released their respective budgets on Sunday, February 18, 2018. The Conferees are meeting and negotiating now with the three budgets: the Governor’s Budget, the Senate Budget and the House Budget. As soon as the negotiations are completed, the VDOE will prepare the Entitlement Budget Sheets, and we will precisely know what DCPS will receive from the state.

State Budget Highlights:

1. Teacher Raises are included in both budgets.
2. Enrollment Loss Funding is included in both budgets: Amount of funding may differ.
3. At Risk Funding is included in the Senate Budget,

DCPS Budget Challenges:

1. Projecting a 10% increase in health insurance, due to serious claims.
2. Elimination of Federal Programs Title II & IV – reduction of \$127,896
3. Projected decrease in Title I and Title VI (Special Education)
4. VRS rates increase for support staff – increase of \$104,060
5. Priority: Salary Increase for all Employees
6. Priority: Replacement of Instructional Programs due to Budget Cuts
7. Priority: Replacement of buses for an aging fleet.
8. Priority: Addressing the need for additional Bus Drivers
9. Priority: Capital Projects Budget

Chairman Susan Mullins made the comment that in looking at addressing the need for additional bus drivers; I think we need to look at the cost of adding some type of health insurance for bus drivers.

g. Update on the Proposed Elementary School Sites

The Board was provided an update from Superintendent Robinson and Scott Mullins on the following:

- Update on Title Work: At this point the work is not moving forward. We are not moving forward with anything that costs money. The Board of Supervisors is not comfortable moving forward until the report from OWPR, who specialize in construction and renovations of schools, is complete and a report provided on the cost of repairs for Clintwood and Ervinton Elementary Schools. We are not moving forward with anything that costs money.

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- Dickenson County Schools used Wise County Building Inspector, who provided their services to look at the issues at Clintwood and Ervinton Elementary, at no charge to the division. However, they will not be able to assign a cost for repairs of issues they find.
- Update on Road Feasibility Study: The school division was informed that the cost of the road construction should be included in the total cost of construction for the new elementary school.
- Reduction of Construction and Elementary School Budget: The Board of Supervisors voted 3 - 2 to use \$600,000 of school construction funds to meet the County's 5% match for other non-education related flood relocation projects. The \$600,000 will be used by the County to provide a 5% match for 202 Flood Projects for other public structures and privately owned homes and properties. The \$600,000 reduction in the school system's construction budget will significantly impact our ability to construct a new elementary school as the elementary construction budget is a very tight budget, with many unknown factors.
- Information from the U. S. Corps of Engineers: Each of you were forwarded an email from Rebecca Bennett, Project Manager last week. In my discussions with Rebecca Bennett, we have discussed what issues would cause Contract negotiations and modifications of the new Elementary School and possible reduction of funding appropriations. Currently the Corps Contract for the Elementary School states a specific square footage, a specific grade configuration and a specific number of students. For the new Elementary School, the Contract stipulates: (1) The square footage is 62,000 square foot, (2) the grade configuration is PK - 5; (3) A specific student population of 500 students. As Mrs. Bennett and I discuss what the triggers are to Contract negotiations and modifications, we discussed these potential scenarios: (1) What if the new elementary school is for 450 students and not 500 students? (2) What if the square footage is reduced from the square footage in the Contract? (3) What if the grade configuration changes from PK - 5 to a PK - 3? From her statement, the greatest impact to require contractual negotiations and amendments and "more than likely a reduction in Elementary School design and construction reimbursements" is the modification of the grade configuration of PK - 5 as stated in the Contract. While there may be an impact on the Contract requirements if a large reduction of student population occurs correlating to the reduction of the square footage, this impact will trigger discussions with the Corps associated with the Contract, but will not require the lengthier process of contractual negotiations and amendments which may result in the likely reduction of construction reimbursements.
- Request for a Joint Meeting be scheduled with the Board of Supervisors, IDA and School Board to determine/develop a spending plan for moving forward with the New Elementary School project.

Approval of Skanska Proposal of Additional Services – Nov. 2015 – December 2017 for \$4,473.04: Letter detailing additional cost provided to the Board. Superintendent Robinson recommended the approval of the payment for additional services.

Following a motion by Dr. Lurton Lyle and second by Rick Mullins; payment of for additional services provided by Skanska was approved.

Vote Results

Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

h. The Solar Roadmap and Ridgeview’s Involvement

Adam Wells, New Economy Program Manager with Appalachian Voices, was unable to attend the meeting. Denechia Edwards provided the Board the following information:

The Solar Workgroup of Southwest Virginia is a broad-based group of stakeholders from the region working to bring the economic benefits of solar development to Southwest Virginia. Dickenson County School system has been an active participant in the Workgroup and Ridgeview High School is featured prominently with the Solar Roadmap as a key ambassador site. According to analysis, the school system could save upwards of \$1.5 million over a 25 year period by installing a 700 Kw roof-mounted solar array on Ridgeview, while providing a wonderful educational tool to complement the schools renewable energy program. Ridgeview is identified as one of the priority solar sites.

i. 2018 March Budget Workshop Meetings and Dates

The following dates are scheduled for budget meetings:

- o Budget Workshop: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
- o Budget Public Hearing: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

(The Regular Scheduled March Meeting will be held immediately following)

j. Mike Clisso, P.E., C.L.S., CFM Engineering Services

Mike Clisso addressed the Board and provided them information concerning his credentials to provide engineering services for the upcoming new elementary school project.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

1. Dr. Lurton Lyle – Expressed his appreciation of his recognition. He also commended the Robotics Team on their success in their competition.
2. Rick Mullins – Stated he was so happy for the Robotics Team’s success.
3. Rocky Barton – Commended the Robotics Team and DECA students on their accomplishments. He commended Linda Willis on her accomplishments in managing Centennial Heights. Those apartments were a result of the 77 Flood. One of the reasons Centennial Heights was approved for Federal grants in the past was a school was within a few miles of its location. The flood two weeks ago was a close call for Sandlick Elementary.
4. Susan Mullins – No comment
5. Shanghai Nickles – Recognized Linda Willis and Faye Wampler as the reason for the RAM Project that occurs each year in Wise. He also stated that there is more to school than the score on the scoreboard and encouraged giving to support other academic and extra-curricular activities.

VII. CLOSED SESSION, PURSUANT TO Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A of the Code of Virginia, there will be a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing: 1. Employment issues relating to FMLA requests, resignation, consideration of hiring coaches, custodians, substitutes, Superintendent evaluation and to consult with legal counsel pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (7).

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles the Board convened in closed session.

Vote Results

Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	

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Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Shanghai Nickles and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; the Board returned to open session.

Vote Results

Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(a) of the Code of Virginia, I certify and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; that during the closed meeting just concluded the Dickenson County School Board discussed only matters lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code and identified in the motion convening the closed meeting.

Certification of Closed Session

Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0

VIII. BOARD ACTION

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; Rob Knepp, Gary Rose and Kevin Rose were approved as assistants for Girls Soccer.

Vote Results

Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Rocky Barton; FMLA request was approved: Renida Bowman, Custodian, Sandlick Elementary School.

Vote Results

Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; resignation of Mary Owens, Part-time Cook at Ridgeview was approved.

Vote Results

Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Dr. Lurton Lyle; employment recommendations were approved: Rodney Sperow, Head Custodian (Evening) and Joshua Mullins, Custodian for Ridgeview High School.

Vote Results

Aye: 5 Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Not Cast: 0

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Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; substitutes were approved contingent upon background check results and completion of all required paperwork: Allyson Carroll, Stephanie Edwards, Nicole Cantrell, Jerry Perrigan, Preston Fleming, and Jeremiah Sluss.

Vote Results

Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and second by Shanghai Nickles; advertising of a Closed Session Meeting for the purpose of Superintendent Evaluation was approved for Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Vote Results

Aye:	5	Rocky Barton, Dr. Lurton Lyle, Rick Mullins, Susan Mullins, Shanghai Nickles
No:	0	
Abstain:	0	
Not Cast:	0	

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 9:10 p.m.

Following a motion by Susan Mullins and a second by Dr. Lurton Lyle the meeting was adjourned. All votes aye.

Susan Mullins

Chairman, Susan Mullins

Approved: March 28, 2018

Reba McCowan

Reba McCowan, Clerk